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20. DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF MUSCIDAE (DIPTERA)

Muscidae (Diptera) contains probably the world's commonest and most ubiquitous insects, the adults of which transmit several dangerous and widespread diseases including typhoid fever, several kinds of dysentery, cholera and trachoma while a few members of the family have been listed as parasitic in nature. The following muscids were collected at Damoh, Madhya Pradesh and Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh.

Species		Date of collection
Atherigona sp.*? bella* Frey	..	14- vii-1966
Dichaetomyia nubiana Bigot	..	26- vii-1967
Fannia leucosticta Mg.	..	28- xii-1966
Gymnodia tonitrui Wied.	..	9- vi-1966
Helina nervosa Stein	..	11-viii-1967
Limnophora himalayensis Brun.	..	3- vii-1967
Lispe leucospila Wied.	..	24- vii-1966
Musca domestica L.	..	2-viii-1966
M. illingworthi Patton	..	9- ix-1963
M. pattoni Aust.	..	2- vii-1966
M. ventrosa Wied.	..	9- ix-1963
Ophyra sp.	..	19- iii-1966
Orthellia sp.	..	12-viii-1967
Orchisia costata Mg.	..	18-viii-1967
Paregle cinerella Fall.	..	11 -vi-1966
Passeromyia heterochaeta Vill.	..	14- ix-1966
Pegomya sp.	..	16-viii-1966
Stomoxys calcitrans L.	..	16 - ii-1967
Synthesiomyia nudiseta Wulp.	..	14- iii-1966

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21. SHEPHERD'S PURSE—AN EDIBLE PLANT OF KASHMIR

Shepherd's purse—*Capsella bursa-pastoris* Moench is a widely distributed plant growing throughout temperate regions of India. It is reported to have a wide medicinal application which includes its use as a diuretic and as a deterrent for haemorrhage (WEALTH OF INDIA, II, 68, 1950). There is however no record of its use for edible purposes. In the course of our search for little known edible plants of the North-Western Himalayas we found people in district Doda of Jammu and many parts of Kashmir valley using this plant as a favourite vegetable. At Sanasar in Doda District the plant is known as 'Drati' and in Kashmir province it is called as 'Kral mund'. The leaves and tender flowering shoots of the plant are cooked into a slightly sour dish.

Rosettes of *Capsella bursa-pastoris* appear immediately after the snow melts. At this time of the year, very few plants are available for human consumption in the mountainous areas. The locals largely depend upon sun-dried vegetables of the previous season. Shepherd's purse, therefore, provides a good change. The children also eat the raw fruits.

Capsella bursa-pastoris Moench belongs to the mustard family (Cruciferae) and is an erect annual with a rosette of deeply clefted leaves oppressed to the ground. Flowering shoots are about 40 cm long and bear small white flowers and conspicuous heart-shaped fruits (to which the plant owes its common English name). The fruits dehisce longitudinally along the central septum exposing two rows of minute seeds on each side.

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